

Remarks

Claims 1-19, 22 and 23 are pending in the application and were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 17 and 19 have been amended and claim 16 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner stated that a plurality of trailers, component part container, and motorized truck were not shown in the drawings. Applicants have added Figure 8 which shows these features. More specifically, Figure 8 includes a side view of the frame shown in Figure 1, a side view of the dolly shown in Figure 5, and a component part container and motorized truck as recited in the original specification. Consequently, no new matter has been added and Applicants believe this objection has been cured.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. More specifically, the Examiner objected to the phrase “whereby the dolly and its associated container are completely removed from the frame” in claim 1. Applicants have deleted this phrase. Consequently, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent No. 2,631,948 issued to Herubel (hereinafter “Herubel ‘948”). Claim 1 has been amended to recite a dolly that is “decoupled from the frame when removed from one of the compartments”. Herubel ‘948 does not recite a dolly that is decoupled from the frame when removed from one of the compartments. Instead, Herubel ‘948 recites an auxiliary trolley (11) that is attached to a principle trolley (1) by an umbilical cord (15) to provide power and

information to the auxiliary trolley. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite a plurality of rollers "having at least one roller downwardly offset relative to the other rollers to lift the dolly as the dolly is inserted into the compartment. Herubel '948 does not disclose or even remotely suggest such rollers. Consequently, Applicants believe the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome. Since claims 2, 3, and 5-7 depend on claim 1, the rejection of these claims is believed to be overcome for the same reasons.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 4 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herubel '948 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,224,812 issued to Oslin et al. (hereinafter "Oslin '812"). Claim 4 depends on amended claim 1. As such, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome for the reasons previously discussed.

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite a "U-shaped actuator bar". The Examiner admitted that Herubel '948 does not disclose an actuator (Office Action, page 3). Oslin '812 does not cure the deficiencies of Herubel '948 since it does not disclose or even remotely suggest a U-shaped actuator bar. Instead, Oslin '812 discloses "dolly retaining means 100 including a retaining member 102" having an "upstanding right-angle flange 102b" (column 6, lines 7-27). As a result, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herubel '948 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,320,475 issued to Pinder (hereinafter "Pinder '475"). Claims 8 and 9 depend on amended claim 1. As such, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome for the reasons previously discussed.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herubel '948 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,199 issued to Gruber (hereinafter "Gruber '199"). Claim 10 and 11 depend on amended claim 1. As such, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome for the reasons previously discussed.

Claims 12, 13, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,515,518 issued to Gilbert et al. (hereinafter "Gilbert '518"). Claim 12 has been amended to recite "actuating a locking mechanism by engaging at least one wheeled platform against a U-shaped member rotatably disposed on the frame, the locking mechanism being adapted to prevent transverse movement of the wheeled platform relative to the frame". Gilbert '518 does not disclose or even remotely suggest a locking mechanism, let alone actuating a locking mechanism by engaging a wheeled platform against a U-shaped member as required by claim 12. As such, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome. Since claims 13, 15 and 18 depend on claim 12, the rejection of these claims is believed to be overcome for the same reasons.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert '518 in view of Herubel '948. As previously discussed, claim 1 has been amended to recite "a plurality of rollers". Neither Gilbert '518 nor Herubel '948 discloses or even remotely suggests any rollers. Consequently, Applicants believe the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome. Since claims 2, 3 and 5-7 depend on claim 1, the rejection of these claims is believed to be overcome for the same reasons.

Claim 17 depends on claim 12. As previously discussed, Gilbert '518 does not disclose or even remotely suggest a locking mechanism, let alone actuating a locking mechanism by engaging a wheeled platform against a U-shaped member. Herubel '948 does not cure the deficiencies of Gilbert '518 since it does not disclose or even remotely suggest a locking mechanism that is actuated when engaged by a wheeled platform. Consequently, Applicants believe the rejection of claim 17 has been overcome. In addition, since claim 16 has been cancelled, its rejection has been rendered moot.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 16, 17, 19 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert '518 in view of Oslin '812. As previously discussed, Gilbert '518 does not disclose or even remotely suggest a plurality of rollers. Oslin '812 does not cure the deficiencies of Gilbert '518 since it does not disclose or even remotely suggest a plurality

of rollers. Consequently, Applicants believe the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome. Since claims 2-4, 6 and 7 depend on claim 1, the rejection of these claims is believed to be overcome for the same reasons.

Claim 17 depends on claim 12. As previously discussed, Gilbert '518 does not disclose or even remotely suggest a locking mechanism, let alone actuating a locking mechanism by engaging a wheeled platform against a U-shaped member as required by claim 12. Oslin '812 does not cure the deficiencies of Gilbert '518 since it does not disclose or even remotely suggest actuating a locking mechanism by engaging a wheeled platform against a U-shaped member. Consequently, Applicants believe the rejection of claim 17 has been overcome.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite a locking mechanism having "pivoting lever and a U-shaped actuator bar pivotally disposed on the rack and adapted to actuate a pivoting lever to partially span the side opening". Neither Gilbert '518 nor Oslin '812 discloses or even remotely suggests such a locking mechanism. Consequently, Applicants believe the rejection of claim 19 has been overcome. Since claim 23 depends on claim 19, the rejection of claim 23 is believed to be overcome for the same reasons.

Claims 8 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert '518 in view of Oslin '812 and further in view of Pinder '475. Claim 8 depends on amended claim 1 and claim 22 depends on claim 19. As such, Applicants believe these claims are allowable for the reasons previously discussed. Moreover, neither Oslin '812 nor Pinder '475 cures the deficiencies of Gilbert '518 since neither reference discloses or even remotely suggests a plurality of rollers having at least one roller downwardly offset relative to the other rollers to lift the dolly as required by claim 1 or a locking mechanism having a pivoting lever and U-shaped actuator bar as required by claim 19. Consequently, Applicants believe the rejection of these claims has been overcome.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert '518 in view of Oslin '812 and further in view of Pinder '475 and still further in view of Gruber '199. Claim 9 depends on amended claim 1. As such, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome for the reasons previously discussed.

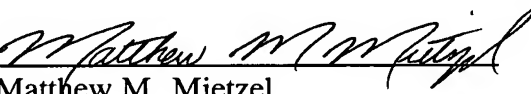
Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert '518 in view of Oslin '812. Claim 10 depends on amended claim 1. As such, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome for the reasons previously discussed.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert '518 in view of Oslin '812 and further in view of Gruber '199. Claim 11 depends on amended claim 1. As such, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome for the reasons previously discussed.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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